



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Patent Application of:

Jean-Yves SANCHEZ et al.

Serial No.: 09/508,378

Filed: June 2, 2000

For: SOLID POLYMER
ELECTROLYTE AND
PREPARATION METHODS

Group Art Unit: 1713

Examiner: T. Zalukaeva

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REPLY TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Official Action issued April 4, 2002, applicants hereby elect, albeit with traverse, the Group I "invention" which includes Claims 1-23 and 29, drawn to a polymer of acrylonitrile and process of its making.

The Restriction Requirement is traversed because it is believed that the two groups of claims set up by the Examiner are drawn to sufficiently interrelated inventions to warrant examination thereof in a single application. Indeed, the method of making a block copolymer of acrylonitrile of the Group II "invention" is sufficiently related to the process of making a polymer of acrylonitrile of the Group I "invention". Thus, a complete search of the process of making a polymer of acrylonitrile would necessarily turn up art relevant with regard to the method of making a block copolymer of acrylonitrile.

A complete search for both groups of claims would be coextensive such that search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden on the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Moreover, examination of the interrelated Group I "invention" and the Group II "invention" would be more efficient than independent examination. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the Requirement for Restriction is respectfully requested.

Further to the election of the Group I claims, is it submitted by applicants that claims 27, 28 and 34 should also be included in the Group I claims. It is believed that the subject matter of these claims also relate to a polymer of acrylonitrile and process of its making, and thus would properly be considered consistent with the subject matter of the Group I claims. Expansion of the elected Group I claims to include the subject matter of claims 27, 28 and 34 is therefore respectfully requested by applicants should the Examiner not reconsider the subject restriction requirement.

The Examiner has also required an election of species, which election is being made in the case no generic claim is finally held allowable. The species elected is that of species a) (and specifically the fourth category of polymer, i.e., "copolymers of methacrylonitrile and of at least one comonomer which makes possible cross-linking, which copolymer is rendered three dimensional by cross-linking", which more specifically include bipolymers.) Example 4 exemplifies the elected species. It is believed that claims 1, 2, 4-10, 14-23, 27-29 and 34 read upon the elected species.

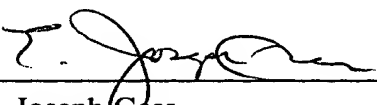
It is noted that upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed claim.

Favorable consideration of all the claims of record on the merits, for the reasons discussed above, is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this response or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned so as to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 6, 2002